

# LAST EDITION EXCISE SPOILS.

Commissioner Koch on the Fassett Rack as to the Board's Methods.

Inspectors Removed and Appointed at the Wigwam's Belieft.

Ivins Finds That 60 Per Cent. of the Old Board Officials Were Sacrificed.

Chairman Fassett had to get along again today with only one member, Stewart and Mac-Nab, of the Hendricks City Committee, to back him in the investigation of the system in vogue in the Excise Department, and "incidentally" to look into the way the present Tammany Board of Excise administers the law.

"Joe" Koch was the only witness of the day, all others being excused till to-morrow.

It was announced that Commissioner Fitzpatrick, yesterday's witness, was too ill to be present and Chairman Fassett ejaculated, sotto voce:

"There, I told Fitzpatrick yesterday that it was water. I told him I hadn't anything else to offer him to drink."

But Commissioner Fitzpatrick is suffering from an attack of a chronic trouble that has afflicted him for many years.

Commissioner Koch has been ill in bed for days with nervous debility, and was out for the first time yesterday, but he ascended the witness chair to-day prepared to meet Inspector Ivins.

Lawyer Edgar M. Johnson, of Hoadly, Lauterbach & Johnson, was present to look after the rights of Judge Koch and to be legal there in the side of Mr. Ivins, who is a good deal more of a political reformer than his lawyer.

David Leventritt and ex-Judge Brown were there, too, to explain the law governing the Board of Excise, and Secretary Bishop, Chief Inspector Gale and other attaches of the Department were on hand to help out the witness, as to the details of office work.

Commissioner Koch said he succeeded to one of the County Democracy excisemen, May 1, 1899.

"What percentages of the employees of the office has your Board replaced by new men?" asked Mr. Ivins.

"About 60 per cent."

"Forty per cent. of the attaches under the former Board have been dismissed to make place for Tammany Hall men?"

"Some of them are not Tammany Hall men. All are appointed after having passed the civil-service examination."

"But Tammany Hall men get most of the places?"

"FRANK ADMISSION AS TO SPOILS."

"Yes, sir; we appoint those who are endorsed by the organization. I suppose it is a working of the old system. To the victors belong the spoils," replied Judge Koch, softly, easily, and as if it were a matter of course.

"You build it as a sort of duty on you owe Tammany Hall to reward those who have been faithful?"

"Rather as a work of gratitude to those who have enabled the organization to win and assume the reins of government."

"Do you take into consideration the intellectual qualifications of candidates for inspectorship?"

"Some of them seem not to have been able to testify intelligently on this stand."

"We do consider their intellectual qualities, and think we have selected fair specimens from the class that apply for such appointments. We haven't had any applications yet from any of the 400."

"The 400?"

"The organ-grinders?"

"No, sir, the other 400."

"How does the Tammany Hall organization indicate its wishes and desires?"

Mr. Ivins asked with a malicious grin.

"You mistake me. I say that the organization makes known its desires to President Meakin. You will have to examine him on this point. I am a member of the Tammany Society, but of no committee, and know little of the operation of the organization," replied Judge Koch, and Inspector Ivins winced a little at the idea of a Republican Commissioner obeying the will of the odious Tammany Society.

A REPLY TO THE CHAIRMAN.

The Commissioner explained that the work of the Department was very great from April 1 to the middle of June. There were removals, transfers and the like that made another report in October and November. During the balance of the year the work is not voluminous.

"There are about 65 inspectors, I believe, and Mr. Gale has testified that an inspector could make an average of twenty-four inspections a week. Are you aware that with your 65 inspectors each one does not make an average of more than one inspection in two days?" propounded Mr. Ivins.

"That may be so by your figures," replied Judge Koch, and Chairman Fassett, who had been ephering for himself, announced that at an average of four a day, the 65 inspectors would make 81,000 inspections in a year.

Mr. Leventritt and Judge Browne came to the rescue of the Commissioner and brought to the aid of the inspectors had other duties, clerical duties to perform. They kept local precinct books for the information of the Commissioner, and performed other office work.

Mr. Ivins asked if the Commissioner felt that the present Board had improved upon workings of the system under the last Board and the John R. Voorhis Board and got a prompt and emphatic affirmation.

"There are fewer saloon licenses than ever before in any classification of licenses," explained Judge Koch.

To Chairman Fassett Judge Koch said that of the date of expiration of licenses could be regulated so that a maximum of any day

applications a day could be fixed fifteen inspectors could do the work.

But Mr. Leventritt brought out that this was not so, as the May moving day made new licenses come in in immense bulk at that time.

To Mr. Ivins Judge Koch said he was in favor of licensing a place rather than a person. He thought every property holder should be privileged to get out a license for his building under proper restrictions.

"SHEETS HAVE \$70,000 A YEAR."

"Do you know of any reason why an arrangement might not be made with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for the employment of the regular inspectors in the work and thus relieve the city treasury? I find that the expense of the Board ten years ago was about \$40,000, while now it is \$114,000."

"The Court of Appeals has decided that the Board of Excise has no power to suspend an inspector, and in one case an inspector suspended under the Woodman Board under charges obtained a judgment for his salary against the city. We may discharge an inspector, but not suspend one."

"Then what is to prevent you from discharging the inspectors when the rush is over and re-employing them again when they are needed? You say they are employed only at the pleasure of the Board."

Judge Koch replied that it would have a tendency, he thought, to demoralize the service, but Chairman Fassett thought such a custom would demoralize a rivalry among aspirants for inspectorship.

Judge Koch thought such dismissals would act as a stigma on the men dismissed, and he thought there was a legal objection, but he couldn't state it.

"GOT IVINS BILED."

"Don't you know that just such a system is now in vogue in the Comptroller's office?" demanded Mr. Ivins.

"That would be no criterion for me," retorted Judge Koch, doggedly. "In the Finance Department, heretofore, skilled accountants were hired as laborers and discharged as laborers, in evasion of the Civil Service law, while incompetents were held over and over again. That may be a nice way, but I don't think so."

"Heretofore," when was heretofore?" demanded the inquisitor with flashing eye.

"Oh, I don't say that as if I knew it. I only speak from common rumor," replied the witness. "Maybe a year ago. May be two."

Judge Koch was very much flushed and acted as if he thought he had talked too much. Lawyer Johnson came to his rescue again and made him repeat that he spoke not from knowledge, but from hearsay.

At this point Secretary Bishop, returned from a trip to the Board of Excise, placed in the hand of the inquisitor one of thirty-four call "local precinct" books.

Mr. Ivins found that the inspector made one entry regarding each inspection in his book, the entry filling a single line.

"So that you can read the arduous clerical work, which you say, Judge Koch, the overworked inspectors have to do?"

Judge Koch nodded assent, and then to the next question said that he voted to license the Sixth Avenue Hotel, the place which Clark Bell and his Law and Order Society are trying to close down.

Judge Koch said that three very estimable gentlemen came to the Board and earnestly advocated the granting of the license.

"But I should have voted for the license anyway," said the Commissioner of said.

"Capt. Killia's favorable report was quite sufficient. Had the Captain reported adversely the place would never have been licensed."

"FRANK ADMISSION AS TO SPOILS."

William S. Andrews, who was an Excise Commissioner under Mayor Grace, is a constant attendant at the hearings, and is expected to be aiding Mr. Grace's ex-partner Ivins in the work.

Mr. Andrews is famous for his resemblance to Benjamin Harrison. His comparison for neatness in dress to a dancing master. He wears a very prominent shirt bosom, a low cut vest and black broadcloth coat.

Judge Koch said he should have no hesitation to grant a license for Gomboy's Bowers Concert Hall in spite of the notorious which it has received in the past few months.

"The place is always wide open and all passers may see what transpires there. It is a concert saloon—nothing else."

As to Walsh's place, Thompson and Fourth streets, Judge Koch implied that those who come to the place are not there to dance, but to place it. It was licensed to a new party.

Ex-Commissioner Andrews, Secretary Bishop, Chief Inspector Gale and Commissioner Koch jointly, severally, in chorus and solo, informed the investigators that the complaints regarding this den were up here and there, and that there were no complaints against the new proprietor, and the old complaint was not laid before the Board when Walsh's application was before the Board. It was ex-Chief Clerk Harper's fault.

EXCISE BONDS ARE N. O.

Referring to the bonds furnished by applicants for saloon licenses Mr. Ivins asked:

"How much are those bonds worth as a protection to the Excise Board from improper parties who seek and obtain licenses?"

"Ain't the law the paper they are printed on, in my belief, except in the case of inspectors," snorted the witness, contemptuously.

"Then the printing of them is an unnecessary and useless expense," suggested Mr. Ivins, and then he asked: "Do you know of any one connected with the Excise Department, who makes it a business, for profit, to get out these bonds?"

"No, sir."

"Don't some one, some notary public, charge a fee for taking acknowledgments to these bonds?"

"No, sir; formerly men used to go about among licensed places and receive their names and make a business of drawing up applications, affidavits and bonds, but we did away with all that, doing all that work, free of fees, at the office of the Board, and signs are up all over the walls telling that no fee must be charged by any attaché of the office."

"You formerly prohibited the licensing of a place next door to a place already licensed. Why was it amended so that such places are now licensed?"

"Because the rule was impractical. Every place should stand on its own merits. In fact, sir, I believe that all our rules are impractical because two members of the Board may override a rule at any time. The whole matter is a matter of discretion with the Board."

"Is there any reason why the law should

not be made to allow any number of licenses to one person?" demanded Mr. Ivins.

"No reason. At present, under the law, Delmonico, Park & Tifford and other who serve in several places, each under license issued in the name of clerks or employees, I think it would be beneficial, for it would enable the exercise of more discretion as to who to issue licenses to."

TWO TWO EXCISE FRANCHISES.

Judge Koch said there should be two branches of the Excise Department—an administrative and a judicial branch, the latter to have a force of municipal police detailed to them for the investigation and surveillance of licensed places. He thought the law should make it perjury for any one to make false affidavits as to the ownership of a place for which license is asked. The law ought to be amended so as to make bonds in the cases of saloons worth something.

"The Excise Department ought to consist of an Excise Board and an Excise Court, the former to grant licenses and the latter to revoke them or investigate rumors or charges against licensed places or licensed men," said Judge Koch.

Trainer's place, just above the Standard Theatre, was considered.

"Don't you think that Trainer is an ex-convict?" asked Ivins.

"No, I don't," replied Judge Koch, vigorously. "I always supposed him to be a very fine man, and his place a well-conducted place. It is a hotel. I have known Trainer fifteen years. He certainly has not been a criminal during that time."

"Even if he had and had served his punishment, I believe in giving such a man a chance. His offense might be one of violence or one of dishonesty. It might have no bearing on his moral character, even."

"So you there, Judge. You have been there after 1 o'clock in the morning, haven't you?"

The witness good naturedly ignored the insult and replied in the negative.

This concluded the day's session.

President Meakin, of the Excise Board, turned up at the Bond street office to-day and will be in the hall to testify before Mr. Fassett and his committee to-morrow.

FOUND THEIR PAPA DEAD.

A Brooklyn Suicide's Body Discovered by His Little Children.

Terence V. Palmer, an undertaker, at 382 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, was found dead this morning hanging to a gas jet in a little room in the rear of his store. Business troubles had worried him for a long time. Mr. Palmer was a widower with two children, a boy and girl, aged nine and six respectively. When the little ones opened their eyes at 8 o'clock this morning they missed their father. Going into the open room they found him hanging to a gas jet. The children ran out of the store and notified their mother, who called the police. When the body was found, it was found that he had been dead several hours.

At the place where he kept an undertaking establishment on Hamilton Avenue, where his wife died of consumption about a year ago.

Palmer was only thirty-three years old, and the latest report of his health was that he had been a member of Court Street, A. O. F. of A.

THIRTY DOLLARS FOR A KISS.

Policeman Nevill Wouldn't Have One for Nothing.

Simon Remvisky, Jacob Schefsky and Pauline Ruffel, were arraigned at Essex Market this morning charged with disorderly conduct.

At the close of this morning the attention of Policeman Nevill of the Eldridge street station was attracted by noise of a disturbance in Division street. He found Schefsky kissing Ruffel.

When the officer interfered he was caught hold of and treated to a kiss and an embrace. He had been told that he was a specific part of his complaint this morning.

Justice Hogan fined the trio \$10 apiece.

From Over the Water.

The steamship Fulda came into port this morning from Bremen with 226 cabin passengers, among whom were Col. Delaney, Mrs. Delaney, Colonel Kake, Carl Kraft, Dr. Philip Delaney and Mrs. Charles Hollman.

IS SIMMONS INDICTED?

Mysterious Indictment Presented by the United States Grand Jury.

The United States Grand Jury filed into the United States Circuit Court to-day, when Foreman Cornelius N. Blase announced that they had completed the consideration of all the cases submitted to them.

Mr. Blase handed in a batch of indictments, the first of which was against James M. Simmons, whose case was under consideration before the Grand Jury for several days.

THE QUOTATIONS.

Stock	High	Low	Open	Close
Am. Tobacco	24 1/2	24 1/4	24 1/2	24 1/4
Am. Sugar	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Tea	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Coffee	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Cacao	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Vanilla	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Nutmeg	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Cloves	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Pepper	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Ginger	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Licorice	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Sassafras	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Eucalyptus	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Myrrh	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Styracine	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Benzoin	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Gum Arabic	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Resin	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Shellac	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Turpentine	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Rosin	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Pitch	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Asphaltum	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Bitumen	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Mastic	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Putty	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Glue	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Cement	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Lime	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Gypsum	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Plaster	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Brick	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Tile	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Marble	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Granite	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Slate	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Limestone	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Sandstone	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Shale	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Coal	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Oil	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Gas	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Electricity	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Water	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Sewerage	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Drainage	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Irrigation	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Reclamation	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Conservation	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Forestry	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Agriculture	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Commerce	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Industry	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Labor	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Education	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Religion	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Art	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Science	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Literature	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Music	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Drama	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Sport	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Amusement	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Entertainment	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Recreation	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Pastime	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Leisure	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Relaxation	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
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Am. Refreshment	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Entertainment	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
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Am. Refreshment	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
Am. Entertainment	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/4
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